



March 6, 2025

Supervisor Shamann Walton
Chair, Rules Committee
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr Carlton B. Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support for Alfonso Felder for SFMTA Board, File #250171

Dear Chair Walton,

I am writing to express Walk San Francisco's support for Alfonso Felder's nomination to the SFMTA Board of Directors, File #250171.

Walk San Francisco works on behalf of everyone who walks, advocating for the changes needed to make it truly safe for all ages and abilities.

I had the opportunity to meet with the candidate to talk to him about San Francisco's transportation and pedestrian safety policies. After this meeting, I believe Alfonso Felder will be a leader who prioritizes the City's Vision Zero policy and efforts. When asked if zero is the right number when talking about traffic crashes and fatalities, Alonso responded "absolutely," which is important for Walk SF to hear from our SFMTA Board. I believe he has shown he is committed to providing robust multi-modal transportation options, which we believe is absolutely necessary to end severe and fatal traffic crashes.

Alfonso Felder's roots growing up in San Francisco, finding independence as a young adult riding MUNI to school and with friends, and his decades-long experience working on transportation plans for a large, San Francisco-based organization will prepare him for this leadership role within the SFMTA Board. He also has a wealth of experience at the intersection of transportation, housing, and land use through his work on the Mission Rock development.

Walk SF supports Alonso Felder's advancement to the full SF Board of Supervisors for a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jodie", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jodie Medeiros, Executive Director



SIERRA CLUB

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

San Francisco Group of the San Francisco Bay Chapter

March 7, 2025

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Re: Support for Alfonso Felder nomination

The Sierra Club supports the appointment of Alfonso Felder to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors. We appreciate the time that Mr. Felder took to meet with the Sierra Club and share his experience.

We are encouraged by the examples Mr. Felder cited, such as the recent 3rd Street and 17th Street bike lane projects where he believes that even though concerns were expressed by opponents of the bike lanes, and challenges may have been created for shuttles or other deliveries, the right decision was still to go forward with the bike lane project and then to be open to iterative improvements. This recognition that the benefits of these projects outweighed the costs is critical. We appreciate the acknowledgement that even with careful listening and outreach, unanimous support for SFMTA projects is rarely attainable.

We are heartened that Mr. Felder supported and highlighted the financial, environmental and mobility benefits of high density developments with little or no parking in Mission Bay. Projects like this are critical for addressing the dual emergency of a climate crisis and a transit fiscal cliff.

We heartily agree with Felder that the increase in safer bike lanes combined with the availability of e-bikes is increasing the popularity of biking as a means of transportation in San Francisco. We must expand on these early successes and build out the truly safe connected network of bike routes the city so desperately needs.

Finally we are hopeful that Felder's role with the beloved SF Giants, his existing business relationships, and the fact that he is not publicly identified as an advocate for sustainable transportation will enable him to be an effective persuader on behalf of walking, biking and transit. It creates risk and uncertainty to have someone like Felder who is unknown to walking, biking and transit advocates in such a critical role at SFMTA. However the upside of bringing in a new person is that they may be a more effective salesperson to some key segments of the public. We sincerely hope this turns out to be true.

To meet the city's existing goals for emissions reduction we must rapidly shift to more sustainable modes of transportation. Transportation policy, and transportation policymakers are

crucial to the fight against global warming. Thus this SFMTA board position is a great responsibility. Particularly because we are supporting someone new for this critical role we also want to share some key priorities.

The transit budget crisis is an existential threat for San Francisco. We cannot achieve the downtown recovery we need without robust public transit. Access to the city is also a civil rights and environmental justice issue. This means that multiple revenue increase strategies must be pursued simultaneously. The city must take decisive action, and quickly.

We were thrilled to hear Felder's interest in exploring a range of options including strategies to increase parking revenue such as bundling transit passes with RPP and/or creating monthly auto-renew billing while increasing the total fee for RPP to better reflect the true costs incurred by drivers on society. San Francisco's transit system and union workers cannot wait any longer for the city to implement these and other measures already within its powers, as the city cannot afford to rely solely on potential state funding and ballot measures.

For street projects, SFMTA must move more quickly and efficiently. Today, simple quick-build projects involving only paint and posts such as 17th Street are generally preceded by multiple years of advocacy and listening sessions, and then an additional year of outreach after the official project launch. The magnitude of climate change and the state of our city budget demand that San Francisco do better.

Because quick-build paint and posts can easily be changed, outreach and listening sessions should be compressed to a 1-2 month period. More emphasis should be placed on observations, representative data collection, and listening 3-6 months after implementation. This form of outreach, listening, and assessment is more efficient and accurate than people speculating how a change might affect them, and is consistent with best practices in cities worldwide, from Paris to Mexico City. [This podcast](#) presents some of the related evidence about this outreach approach.

We appreciate the productive initial conversations we have had and we look forward to continuing to work together to tackle these issues that are so critical to the future of San Francisco. We are pleased to support Mr. Felder's nomination.

Sincerely,

Charles Whitfield
Chair, San Francisco Group
Sierra Club